

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21308

This legislation is intended to allow policymakers adequate time and resources to review the impact of wind energy development on Idaho citizens. Because of the massive financial incentives offered to wind developers at the federal, state, and local levels, wind energy development in Idaho has proliferated at an unprecedented rate. In spite of the action by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission last year, which reduced the cap to 100Kw for wind developers to qualify for the published PURPA rate, wind development in Idaho continues unabated. Simply put, the negative impacts of wind energy on wildlife, residents, property owners, taxpayers, and utilities continues to be of concern. This legislation would provide an opportunity for lawmakers to adequately and thoroughly assess the wind energy sector in Idaho and make recommendations based on that assessment.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no impact to the General Fund. However, it is estimated monies will be paid out of the legislative account for task force members' travel and per diem expenses as approved by the Speaker of the House and Senate President Pro Tempore.

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